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 CHARLOTTE GOLFER COMES FROM BEHIND FOR FIRST VICTORY IN A MAJOR. SPORTS

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JUNIOR GETS LONG-AWAITED WIN

BROOKLYN, Mich. — On Father's Day in the Irish Hills of Michigan, the unyielding devotion of the fans of NASCAR's most popular driver finally paid off.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. ended his career-worst 143-race winless streak with a dominating victory in the Quicken Loans 400.

"I'm just real proud of all the fans for sticking behind us through all these years trying to get back to Victory Lane," an emotional Earnhardt said. "I'd say this win right here is more for them than anybody..."

Not only did Earnhardt grab a win, but he cemented his position as a legitimate title contender this season.

Earnhardt's move to Hendrick Motorsports in 2008 was made with high expectations. But he failed to qualify for the Chase — NASCAR's version of the playoffs — two of the first three years with the organization. He hit rock bottom three years ago, finishing a career-worst 25th in the series standings.

While he has 19 career Cup wins, Earnhardt has yet to win a series championship, something his father, the late Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a last-lap crash in the 2001 Daytona 500.

After "Junior's" win Sunday, his sister, Kelley, posted this note on her Twitter account:

"Finally! The thrill of victory..."

— JIM UTTER



CARLOS OSORIO - AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr. celebrates after winning Sunday in Brooklyn, Mich. NASCAR's most popular driver ended a 143-race winless streak that dates back to 2008. His last win? Also in Michigan.

MORE INSIDE

Read more about Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s drought-busting Sprint Cup victory in Sports, 1C.

ONLINE

See more photos and read all the coverage of Junior's win at charlotteobserver.com.

STARTING OVER

LAID OFF AND DESPERATE, LISA OBEID WAS READY TO SELL PLASMA WHEN SHE SAW JOB TRAINING CLASS

Goodwill plus her will equals new career

By VICTORIA GUIDA
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Lisa Obeid had been out of a job for three years and was living with her mother because she couldn't pay her bills. She and her second husband had divorced, and no matter how many positions she applied for, she got no response.

Eventually, unemployment became so tough that she was willing to sell her plasma to earn money.

But while researching how to do that, she came across an ad for job

training from Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont.

She signed up for a training program with Goodwill and honed her skills. It allowed her to stay busy, get support and, eventually, find a job.

Now, more than a year later, she's moved into her own apartment with her two daughters. They recently bought a black Pekingese and poodle mix puppy named Hershey. And in May, Obeid won Goodwill's most prestigious award.

SEE STARTING OVER, 6A



JOHN D. SIMMONS - jsimmons@charlotteobserver.com

Lisa Obeid, flanked by daughters Summer, left, and Sarah, right, recently won a top award from Goodwill.

Greece elects pro-euro party

Tensions ease as frail country takes crucial step in bailout deal and votes for stabilizing New Democracy party

By ELENA BECATOROS AND DEMETRIS NELLAS
 Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — A pro-euro party came in first in Greece's election Sunday, a development that eased, at least briefly, deep fears that the vote would unleash an economic tsunami.

With one party advocating ripping up Greece's multibillion-euro bailout deal, Sunday's vote for the New Democracy party was seen as crucial for Europe and the world, since it could determine whether Greece would be forced to leave the 17-nation joint euro currency.

A Greek exit from the euro could have catastrophic consequences for other ailing European nations, the United States and the entire global economy. Central banks stood ready to intervene in case of financial turmoil.

It was Greece's second national election in six weeks after an inconclusive ballot May 6.

With 82.5 percent of the vote counted, official results showed the conservative New Democracy party winning 30 percent and 130 of the 300 seats in Parliament. The anti-bailout Syriza party had 26.6 percent and 71 seats, and the pro-bailout Socialist PASOK party came in third with 12.5 percent of the vote and 33 seats.

The anti-immigrant nationalist Golden Dawn SEE GREECE, 6A



ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

Sky Noblezada, 17, of Mooresville sings for the crowd at 5 a.m. Sunday. She's hoping for a third-time charm Tuesday when auditions begin.

Thousands camp out for 'Idol' auditions at arena

By ELISABETH ARRIERO
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They came armed with fluorescent signs, pink guitars and, of course, their singing talents, with one mission: to become the next American Idol.

Thousands of people from across the Southeast spent the early morning hours of Father's Day camping outside of Time Warner Cable Arena, waiting to pick up a wristband they will need for the first round of auditions on Tuesday.

Hopefuls will be viewed by teams of producers, who decide which acts will advance to the show's judges and appear in front of cameras.

This is the first time "Idol" has held auditions in Charlotte, and officials predict up to 15,000 could participate. By 7 a.m. Sunday, about 2,000 people were lined up, and many more streamed in throughout the day.

The show's producers said they wouldn't have an accurate count of how many people will audition until Tuesday.

"The South always gives us the best talent, but you really gotta narrow it down to the Carolinas," said Patrick Lynn, supervising producer for "American Idol." "It's been a long time coming for us to

SEE 'IDOL', 6A

Looking Ahead

5-DAY FORECAST MORE ON PAGE 8C

Today 86/65
 Chance of thunderstorms
 Chance of rain: 30%
Ozone:
 Moderate concern

Tuesday 89/67 Partly cloudy, very warm Chance of rain: 0%	Wednesday 93/70 Mostly sunny and hot Chance of rain: 0%	Thursday 94/70 Mostly sunny and hot Chance of rain: 0%	Friday 92/71 Sunny and hot Chance of rain: 0%

RODNEY KING, 47, FOUND DEAD IN POOL

Rodney King, the black motorist whose videotaped 1991 beating by Los Angeles police was the touchstone for one of the most destructive race riots in U.S. history, was found dead Sunday. **3A**

Mosquito survival magic

Raindrops that weigh 50 times as much as a mosquito don't kill them. Scientists explain how the pests withstand a squashing and fly on to inflict misery. **SciTech 4-5A**

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